Homœopathy in Obstetrics.

An Essay

Respectfully submitted

to the Faculty of the

Homœopathic Medicall College

of Penna.

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One Thousand eight hundred and fifty two

by

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The great reform in medicine introduced by the promulgation of the law of Similars must result in an entire revolution in ancient therapeutics, and though its salutary effects will be manifested in all branches of medicine yet in none will the advantages be more prominent than in that of obstetrics.

No one will doubt this who reflects for a moment on the exquisite susceptibility of the female organism to various influences, the peculiar sensibility incident to the process of gestation and the immediate dependence of the fœtus upon the mother for its proper development.

From the performance of a normal function that should require no attention other than a due observance of hygienic and dietetic rules, pregnancy and parturition have come to be considered as

dangerous conditions, requiring the constant care of the physician.

That this state of things has been partially induced by the false habits of civilization which prevent women from attaining the robust health and strength common to those in under society cannot be denied; nor is it less true that the baneful practices of allœopathic medicine, have had their full share in producing these injurious effects.

Who can estimate the immeasured amount of suffering and disease that has resulted from the bloodletting so constantly prescribed by allœopathic authors for the diseases of pregnancy!

It requires but moderate powers of reason to understand that such wanton wastefulness of the means of life must induce debility and a predisposition

to take on disease.

Who can doubt that the indiscriminate use of poisonous doses in the forms of emmenagogues, cathartics etc. is a most potent cause in inducing many of the diseases peculiar to women who bear children?

The truth is too evident in the pallid countenances and unnerved constitutions that have become the rule rather than the exception among the women of civ-ilization.

As a consequence of these abuses whose ruinous effects are constantly transmitted to the infant generation we find our race becoming deteriorated and weak, when superior intelligence and increased knowledge of physiological laws should have caused a corresponding advance in physical improvement.

Sad indeed would be the picture were there no relief to the dark shade of physical degeneracy that these evils have brought upon us. But in Homeopathia has arisen a light that gives to the future bright gleams of health and strength for mankind. By its mild mysterious power the hydra-headed monster disease is led to its own destruction, instead of being aroused to combat by means which offer no protection from its onslaughts.

For the first time in the history of medicine has there been established a true unerring law in the administration of remedies for the cure of disease; and as an evidence of its perfection and claims for attention its measures are mild and incapable of harm, while at the same time powerful for good.

It is this principle that commends it in

a special manner to the accoucheur, to the physician whose office it is to prevent and correct the constant irregularities to which pregnancy is liable, and to bring the resources of art to the assistance of the mother in the hour of travail; and it is at this time when the susceptible organism answers to the slightest influence either beneficial or injurious, that the new system realizes its greatest triumphs.

Ignoring the crude and material theories of bygone ages which seem to take no cognizance of the delicate and complex machine whose disorder is to be corrected, and discarding the rude and dangerous appliances which such theories offer and which often produce greater suffering than that they were intended to remove, the homeopath, enlightened by the law

of Similia Similibus Curantur seeks an agent that a priori reasoning has taught him will be specifically adapted to the diseased condition, and thus, by a safe and harmless process is the evil eradicated and health restored.

The importance and magnitude of this reform can hardly be estimated.

It is only when a new race shall have arisen healthy and vigorous under its beneficent influence that the enormous errors of ancient medicine will be comprehended.

Upon the homœopathic obstetrician devolve great responsibilities and upon his industry and faithfulness await the richest rewards.

Prejudice and ridicule oppose him at every step but the final triumph will be certain and glorious.

The consciousness of having aided in securing to future generations the blessings of health, a patrimony richer than all others the world can bestow, should be a sufficient incentive to the greatest exertion.

Among the benefactors of humanity whose memories posterity will delight to honor, none will be remembered with more gratitude than the founder and pioneers of the true law of cure.